



# THE WITNESS

## St. Stephen's Church Newsletter

**Volume 32, Issue 6/7**  
**The Rev. Mark Bradford, Pastor**

**June/July 2021**  
**Church Phone (405) 843-5333**

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Two months ago we started discussing the two Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Last month we examined Baptism and this month we are going to take a look at the Lord's Supper. As with Baptism there is a lot of disagreement and a wide divergence within the church when it comes to the Lord's Supper. On one end of the spectrum there are those who believe that the Lord's Supper is a service of remembrance; on the other end there are those who believe in transubstantiation which holds that the bread and the wine (juice) is actually transformed into the flesh and blood of Christ. In the middle of these two extremes are a multitude of other views. The Westminster Confession of Faith holds to a middle view which is the one normally held by those of the Reformed faith.

Chapter XXIX of the Confession, "Of the Lord's Supper," begins by talking about the Lord's institution of the Lord's Supper. "Our Lord Jesus, on the night wherein He was betrayed, instituted the sacrament of His body and blood, called the Lord's Supper, to be observed in His Church, unto the end of the world, for the perpetual remembrance of the sacrifice of Himself in His death; the sealing of all benefits thereof unto true believers, their spiritual nourishment and growth in Him, their further engagement in and to all duties which they owe unto Him; and, to be a bond and pledge of their communion with Him, and with each other, as members of His mystical body."

The Confession strongly speaks against two popular views that were held by the Church at the

time of the Reformation. One view has to do with the idea that the Lord's Supper is a re-sacrifice of Christ and the other idea, closely tied to this one, is that of transubstantiation. Addressing the idea of a re-sacrifice it states, "In this sacrament, Christ is not offered up to His Father, nor any real sacrifice made at all, for remission of sins of the quick or dead; but only a commemoration of the one offering up of Himself, by Himself, upon the cross, once for all." The writer of Hebrews makes it very clear that Christ's one sacrifice was sufficient for all believers for all time. There is no need for Christ to be sacrificed again and again.

Addressing the second idea of transubstantiation the Confession states, "That doctrine which maintains a change of the substance of bread and wine into the substance of Christ's body and blood (commonly called transubstantiation) by consecration of a priest, or by any other way, is repugnant, not to Scripture alone, but even to common sense and reason."

So what did the Confession believe about the Lord's Supper? The Reformers held to a doctrine known as the "real presence." The Confession states, "Worthy receivers, outwardly partaking of the visible elements, in this sacrament, do then also, inwardly by faith, really and indeed, yet not carnally and corporally but spiritually, receive and feed upon Christ crucified and all benefits of His death: the body and blood of Christ being then, not corporally or carnally, in, with, or under the bread and wine; yet, as really, but spiritually, present to faith of

believers in that ordinance, as the elements themselves are to their outward senses.”

The Reformers would argue that the Lord’s Supper is more than merely a feast of remembrance. In it there is a holy mystery. In some way the believer is fed spiritually. Christ is present at the Lord’s Supper even as He is present within the body of Christ which is the Church.

I just finished reading a book by Hans Boersma entitled “Heavenly Participation: the Weaving of a Sacramental Tapestry.” Part of Dr. Boersma’s argument is that modernism has removed the supernatural from nature. We have separated God’s creation from God Himself. Colossians 1:16-17 says, “For by Him all things were created... And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.” The “Him” in this passage is Christ. Notice that in Christ, not only were all things created, but all things hold together. Take the supernatural out of the created order and it would not hold together.

We need to be cautious that we do not remove the supernatural from the sacraments. Is there a mystery involved in the partaking of the Lord’s Supper? The Lord’s Supper is more than a feast of remembrance. God in some mysterious way is nurturing us spiritually through the sacrament. The next time you partake of the Lord’s Supper, partake with a holy awe believing that God is doing something within the body of Christ through the sacrament.

Yours in Christ, *Pastor Mark*

### **Worship Schedule**

Sunday

9:45 Adult Sunday School

11:00AM – Worship

11:00AM – Streaming Online Worship

*facebook.com/StStephensOKC*



### **JUNE/JULY SERMON TOPICS**

During the first two Sundays of June and the last three Sundays of July I will be continuing my sermon series of Mark’s Gospel. We will be having guest preachers the third and fourth Sundays of June and the first Sunday of July.

June 6 Mark 7:24-37

*The Children’s Crumbs*

June 13 Mark 8:1-13

*The Feeding of the Four Thousand*

June 20 Ed Bedrosian Preaching

June 27 Wes Martin Preaching

July 4 Randy Faulkner Preaching

July 11 Mark 8:14-21

*The Leaven of the Pharisees and Herod*

July 18 Mark 8:22-30

*“Who do People say that I am?”*

July 25 Mark 8:31-9:1

*Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection*



### **MAY SESSION REPORT**

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Lori Pickrell provided a financial report that included updates on the church’s current financial position. Lori commented that things are running under budget, but only because of the COVID PPP loan; otherwise, giving for the year has been down. A Budget Committee meeting will be scheduled for the near future.

**FELLOWSHIP:** Wendy Smith reported that 71 folks attended fellowship on Mother’s Day Sunday and that everything went very well.

**OUTREACH:** John Robison reported that an average of 75 people had been watching the Sunday broadcasts but for Mother’s Day we had 75 people in the sanctuary and about 25 that watched the broadcast.

**WORSHIP:** Matt Stillwell explained that they are planning an Ascension Day service on May 13 and for communion to be served during the services on June 6 and July 11. He reported that Worship Committee meetings are going well. It was decided that every other pew would remain taped off but that the offering plate could be passed from person to person. Matt confirmed pulpit substitutions have been scheduled for June 20, 27, and July 4 and that the choir would return in the fall.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Lori reported that nearly all work on the new air conditioning units and their associated security has been completed.

## JUNE SMALL GROUPS

Bible Study & Prayer – Sunday evening at Pastor Mark & Anne Bradford's – June 13 at 5:30PM.

Tuesday Bible Study – June 1 & 15 at 2:30PM

Men's Prayer Group – Saturday mornings at 7:30AM

## JULY SMALL GROUPS

Bible Study & Prayer – Sunday evening at Pastor Mark & Anne Bradford's – July 18 at 5:30PM.

Tuesday Bible Study – July 20 at 2:30PM

Men's Prayer Group – Saturday mornings at 7:30AM

### *June Fellowship Hour Treats*

**June 6** – Miss Butch Derrick

**June 13** – Wendy Smith

**June 20** – Jaquelyn Kuhn

**June 27** – Laurie Daub

### *July Fellowship Hour Treats*

**July 4** – Jean & Kent Larason

**July 11** – Pat Robison

**July 18** – Keith & Karin Seidemann

**July 25** – Margo Whiting

### *June/July Greeters*

Linda Prince & Margo Whiting

### **Meet Our St. Stephen's Family**

will resume in the August *Witness*.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

**We had a surprise three-year graduate:**

**Hope Hudson**

Southwestern Oklahoma State University on May 1  
Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology, Child  
Development

## WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT

**Hope Bradford** and **Taylor Conley** will be  
married June 19 at 7:00PM. You may livestream the  
ceremony with this link:  
[theknot.com/hopetaylor](http://theknot.com/hopetaylor)

*Thank you* to **Jean & Kent Larason** who  
designed and put together two lovely floral  
arrangements for the sanctuary: one for Lent with  
lavenders and purples and one for Pentecost with  
vibrant reds, oranges and yellows.

**A request was made for the words to *Mother's Day Tribute* be printed in our newsletter.**

Words by John Robison (Proverbs 31: 25-30)

*Mother's Love, it is enduring,  
Mother's hands kept you from harm.  
Gave you life, and love, and caring,  
She kept you safe, and whole, and warm.*

*Strength and honor are her clothing,  
Wisdom, kindness, she provides.  
Mankind all, should name her blessed,  
For she completes mankind's design.*

*Mother's Love, it is enduring,  
Mother's Love, in you resides.  
Honor her, her thoughts, her being,  
For she completes mankind's design.*

## THE CHOSEN/BSF

Besides cooking and home renovation shows, when was the last time you felt good about watching TV? Dallas Jenkins has the answer for a wholesome and binge-worthy show. He is the producer of *The Chosen*, the latest Facebook rage. A friend told me about this new TV show about the life of Christ and urged me to try it out, so I downloaded the app and watched the first episode. I was hooked. The show starts out with the calling of the disciples and has a few Old Testament flashbacks with a little bit of Bible humor splashed in. I'm really enjoying getting to know all the characters, and the best part is that it spurs you to go back and read the Gospels. Nicodemus (Nick at Night ☺) has some gut-wrenching scenes, and you see his dilemma up close and personal. You see why Mary Magdalene was at the cross, and you love Peter's compulsive personality. But Matthew, the outcast tax collector, is by far my favorite character. This made me think --in God's perfect timing-- Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) will study the book of Matthew this fall, starting the week after Labor Day in September. BSF is a school-year-long Bible study that dives deep into one book of Scripture, studying the non-changing attributes of God and doctrines of the Bible. In my 25+ years of BSF, I've learned who God is and how His word applies to my life. I highly encourage you to sign up to study it either in groups online ([bsfonline.org](http://bsfonline.org)) or in-person ([mybsf.org](http://mybsf.org)).

Then share both of these ideas with a friend. *The Chosen* can be watched on their website ([watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen](http://watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen)) or on their App (search *The Chosen* on the App store or Google Play and look for an icon with a contemplative Jesus). The show is completely free with a pay-it-forward structure. If technologically impaired Susan can figure it out, so can you! Who knows what seeds you will plant to share the Gospel or help someone grow in Christ? #bingeJesus *Susan Almen*



*Glorious Is Thy Name Most Holy*  
It is #677 in our hymnal.

As far as hymns go, “Glorious is Thy Name Most Holy” is a relatively new hymn, being copyrighted in the year 1961. Because of this recent compositional and copyright date, this hymn lacks an abundance of information. What we do know is that it is typically associated with one of two hymn tunes, AUSTRIAN HYMN and HOLY MANNA. The version in our hymnal is set to HOLY MANNA. According to the hymn database, Hymnary.org, “Glorious is Thy Name Most Holy” only appears in three hymnals, of which our hymnal is one. The lyrics were written by Ruth Elliott, and the tune in our hymnal was composed by William Moore. The hymn is one of praise and acclaim to God. It speaks to how we strive to use our gift of life in service to Him, our efforts to make our lives worthy to Him, and gives Him thanks.

As is similar to the hymn, very little is known about Ruth Elliott. We do know she was born in 1887, and an approximate death date of 1987 (making her 74 when she wrote “Glorious is Thy Name Most Holy”). She was a member of the Executive Staff of the Board of Foreign Missions for the Presbyterian Church in the United States from 1921 until her retirement in 1954. She was active in the United Stewardship Council and graduated from Wellesley College. She did graduate work at Cornell University and at Cambridge University in England.

## JULY HYMN OF THE MONTH

*We Are God’s People*

It is #399 in our hymnal.

“We Are God’s People” was composed in 1975 by Rev. Bryan Jeffrey Leech. Rev. Leech recounted the following about the origin of the hymn:

We had at that time very few popular hymns relating to the church. So on a gray, smoggy morning at a friend’s office in Southern California, I decided to work toward remedying this lack by writing one of my own. The date was the 4th of July, 1975. I sat at a typewriter in his office and did not get up until I had written all four verses. The result was “We Are God’s People.” It turned out to be the favorite of all my hymn texts. I love singing it and I like especially the mixture of the metaphors in it, some biblical and some my own, which illustrate the true nature of the church. ‘We are a temple, the Spirit’s dwelling place, formed in great weakness, a cup to hold God’s grace; we die alone, for on its own each ember loses fire: yet joined in one the flame burns on to give warmth and light, and to inspire.’

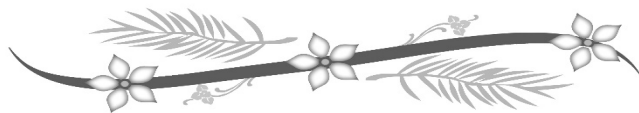
The hymn tune is SYMPHONY, a tune borrowed from the melody of the exposition of the fourth movement of Johannes Brahms’ Symphony No. 1 in C minor, op. 68.

Rev. Leech was born on May 14, 1931 in Essex, England. After his schooling in England, he came to the United States in 1955. He received further studies and a BA from Barrington College, and attended North Park Seminary in Chicago. After graduating, he was ordained a minister in the Evangelical Covenant Church. He served pastorates in Boston, Massachusetts, Montclair, New Jersey, San Francisco and Santa Barbara from 1958 to 1975, and was Minister of Congregational Care and Radio at First Covenant Church, Oakland, California. He passed away on June 30, 2015. Leech is the author of some 250 songs and anthems. His songs have

been recorded and performed by Norma Zimmer, Paul Sandberg, The Hour of Power Choir from the Crystal Cathedral, the choir of the Hollywood Presbyterian Church, the choirs of St. Mary's Cathedral and Grace Cathedral, San Francisco, and very recently the Roger Wagner Chorale in their CD recording of "No Longer a Baby." He has been published by Lorenz, Theodore Presser, Lillenas, Columbia Pictures Music, Warner Brothers, Fred Bock Music, Hope Publishing, and Pavanne.

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897) was a German composer, pianist, and conductor of the Romantic Period. He was born into a Lutheran family, and while not a devout man, did compose many religious works, chiefly among them *A German Requiem*, a funeral mass in the vernacular (rather than in Latin), meant to be understood by all, upon the death of his mother. In addition to the requiem, his oeuvre includes four symphonies, two piano concertos, one violin concerto, numerous overtures, and more. He is considered one of the most important classical music composers, and is counted among the "3 B's of Music" – Bach, Beethoven, and Brahms. Many of his compositions have become staples of modern symphonic repertoire. He lived his life serving other musicians, championing Dvorak, supporting Clara Schumann's career, working with Joseph Joachim, and more. Despite this, he died alone of liver cancer, in relative poverty, just after reaching the height of his career.

For Hymn of the Month requests, contact Kaleb at [kalebbenda@gmail.com](mailto:kalebbenda@gmail.com) or (405)-410-9331.



### HUMOR

Poster found in a Church in France...(translated):  
*"When you enter this church it may be possible that you hear 'the call of God.' However, it is unlikely that He will call you on your mobile. Thank you for turning off your phones. If you want to talk to God, enter, choose a quiet place and talk to Him. If you want to see Him, send Him a text while driving."*

"If you find it in your heart to care for somebody else, you will have succeeded."

## CHURCH OFFICERS

### Elders

#### Class of 2021

Lori Pickrell	503-9585	Treasurer
John Robison	627-3565	Outreach

#### Class of 2022

Robert Buswell	426-7429	Clerk/Stewardship & Memorials
Wendy Smith	850-6564	Fellowship

#### Class of 2023

Dwight Daub	618-7497	President of Corporation/ Nominating
Kent Larason	808-3971	Nurture
Matt Stillwell	520-7276	Worship

### Deacons

#### Class of 2021

Michael Bassett	942-2074	Church Work Days
Erin Von Tungeln	410-5901	Clerk

#### Class of 2022

Robin Page	514-8240	Missions
Keith Seidemann	474-5454	Transportation

#### Class of 2023

Linda Prince	215-1991	Flowers
Margo Whiting	229-3344	Ushers/Greeters

### WITNESS DEADLINE

**July 26** is the deadline to submit articles for the August 2021 *Witness*. You may bring items to the church office or e-mail them to: [secretary@ststephensokc.org](mailto:secretary@ststephensokc.org).

Thanks! Laurie Daub, St. Stephen's Secretary  
**St. Stephen's Church 2424 NW 50<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Oklahoma City, OK 73112 405-843-5333**

[secretary@ststephensokc.org](mailto:secretary@ststephensokc.org)

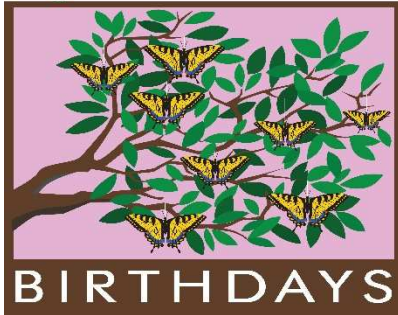
[www.ststephensokc.org](http://www.ststephensokc.org)

[facebook.com/StStephensOKC](https://facebook.com/StStephensOKC)



Romans 12:12, ESV

# JUNE



- 2 Anna Welte
- 3 Ashley Benda
- 5 Miss Butch Derrick
- 11 Jaquelyn Kuhn
- 13 Kaleb Benda
- 19 Jon Powell
- 19 Dan Wilson
- 21 Karin Seidemann
- 30 Frank Miranda

# JUNE



- 6 Kent & Jean Larason
- 10 Keith & Karin Seidemann
- 23 Glenn & Valerie Pulley
- 30 Dave & Judi Dawson

*\*\*If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please contact the church office.*



## Special Dates

- Flag Day, June 14
- Father's Day, June 20
- First day of summer, June 20



- 4 Austin Andrews
- 5 Elizabeth Garrett
- 6 Elizabeth Bradford
- 6 Joan Miranda
- 6 Dorothy Powell
- 7 Katie Jones
- 8 Branden Dillard
- 8 Margo Whiting
- 11 Nelson Pickrell
- 12 Gentrie Hinline
- 16 Micah Morgan
- 18 Christa Charlie
- 19 Mary Walker
- 19 Matthew Stillwell
- 21 Hunter Page
- 22 Cher Brooks
- 25 Hudson Von Tungeln
- 25 Dan Dutcher
- 25 Laurie Daub
- 29 Pat Tsoodle
- 29 Kym Manning
- 30 Mark Bradford
- 31 Peyton Hinline



- 7 Seth & Erin Von Tungeln
- 8 Aaron & Gentrie Hinline
- 26 Michael & Joy Bassett
- 29 Dan & Shelley Dutcher

## Special Dates

U.S. Independence Day, July 4

## Prayer Requests

If you have missed prayers or would like to be added to the Women's Fellowship prayer chain please call Doris Cornell (605-6172) or Treva Gullett (735-9908).